Functioning of Song and Drama Division in Srinagar

1905. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of Song and Drama Division located at Residency Road in Srinagar had stopped functioning as most of the staff had been posted away due to abnormal conditions there;

(b) the steps Government are taking to restore its normal functioning;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for day-to-day (sanction of funds the office has to approach the counterpart office in Ludhiana; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The song and Drama Division office is functional.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mobilizing People through Electronic Media

1906. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy of mobilizing the people in the country by making best use of electronic media, like television, for creating a sense of unity amongst them and thereby ushering an era of lasting peace in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any specific policy for Assam and North-Eastern Region in view of the extremist activities and secessionist movement presently going on there; and

(c) what are the details thereof and what concrete steps have been taken in this direction during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Prasar Bharati, as a public service broadcaster, has a role to foster peace, and amity among people of diverse cultures, religions and faiths. In this direction, it mounts various programmes with a view to promote peace and harmony and National Integration. Over the years, Doordarshan and All India Radio have played a major role in transforming the country from backwardness to unified and progressive state.

(b) and (c) In view of the extremists' activities and secessionist movements going on in Assam and some North Eastern states, there is a specific policy to mount programmes on the problems of militancy, insurgency, unrest arising out of foreigners' issues, under employment and under development, sense of alienation and the activities of disruptive forces with special emphasis on the need for peace and harmony. "North east in Seige" (Insurgency in NE), "The Silent Invasion" (Infiltration issues), "Future at Stake" (Misguided Youth), "Alone in Agony" (Aftermath of Militancy), "ULFA: The Terror in Brahmaputra Valley", "Breaching the Waves" (Insurgency in Manipur) are some of the programmes, which have been telecast in the recent past on the problems of extremists activities and secessionist movement in North Eastern Region.

Transmission Network of Akashvani in Border Areas

†1907. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further strengthen the transmission network of Akashvani in the border areas with the intention of enhancing the number of listeners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. 41 schemes of All India Radio are being implemented at a cost of Rs. 112 crores in order to strengthen

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.